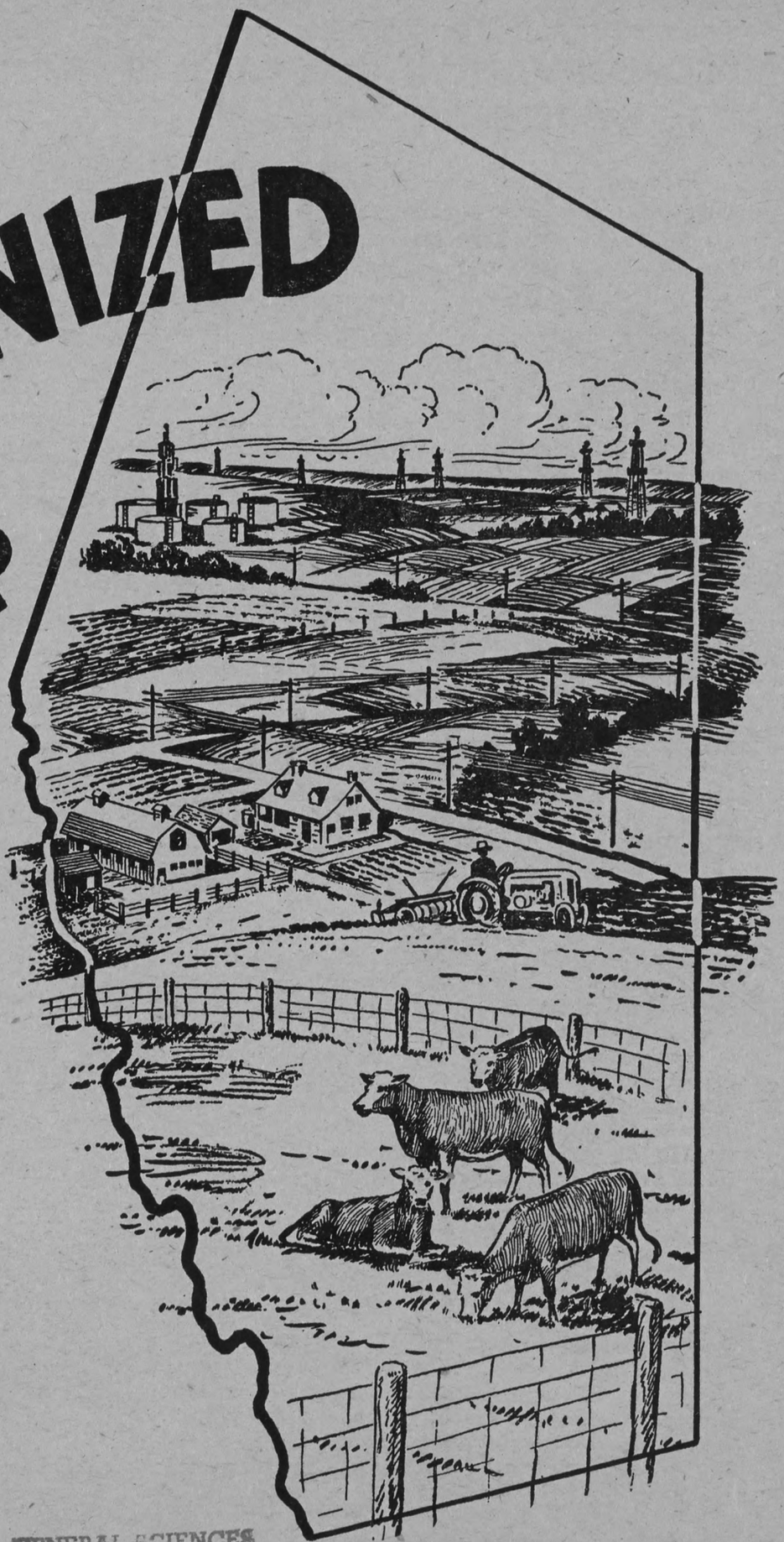
G-35

THE ORGANIZED FARMER



July, 1956

Herein . . .

Beach Project
By Mrs. Jack Perkins
Page 13

Drainage Laws
By A. M. Brownlee
Page 14

Municipal Finance
By A. W. Platt
Page 10

At Farm Young People's Week
By Hannah Anderson
Page 8

GENERAL SCIENCES

BARD
S
1
F23349
v.15:
no.5-6
1956

CONSERVATION HINDERED BY TENANCY LAWS

Farming efficiency and soil conservation have long been a concern of not only farming people but also of research workers, government agencies and sociologists. In a recent issue of The Economic Annalist (federal department of agriculture), a writer makes some pointed observations on these two topics. Portions of the author's comments are reprinted below:

"The tenure status of farmers affects the manner in which they organize their resources of production and thus the final products of their efforts. Owner operators who have no debt have the greatest freedom in combining land, labor and capital in such a way as to maximize their incomes. Having a high degree of security with respect to length of occupancy of a farm, he is encouraged to combine his resources in such a way as to maximize production over a long period of time — usually his lifetime and perhaps also the lifetime of his son. A full owner whose farm is mortgaged heavily has a lower degree of security. As a result he places a premium on those enterprises which will bring an early return. In the process of rationing his operating capital he often postpones or reduces expenditures which are postponable, even if it may mean a decrease in his future income.

Debt and Cropping

"A heavy debt burden tends to stimulate heavy cropping, particularly under conditions of a falling price level, which makes it more difficult to meet regular payments. Since the expected period of occupancy by tenants is not so long as that of mortgaged owners, a tenant ccannot plan as far into the future as an owner in making investments, in starting new enterprises or in adopting improved practices. For a tenant without a high degree of security of tenure, expenditures must be expected to produce immediate returns or they will not be undertaken.

No Immediate Benefits

"Soil conservation requires long-time planning of farm practices since resources devoted to the conservation of the land are often slow in yielding returns. The length of time a farmer expects to remain on the same farm influences every major decision in the planning of his crop and livestock system, his farming practices and his living conditions. A tenant farmer who has no assurance from the landlord that he may be allowed to stay on the farm for several years, or who himself is ready to move to another farm at any given opportunity, naturally has a different attitude towards the soil than the owner operator who builds up a permanent home for himself and his family and has a direct interest in keeping up the soil fertility as well as the buildings and permanent improvements of his farm. Soil conserving practices may not greatly affect the immediate income of the user of the land but they are of vital concern to future generations. It is essential that obstacles to the optimum use of resources from the standpoint of long term returns should be removed from landlord-tennant agreements.

Tenancy Flaws

"Much has been written on the weaknesses of tenancy in North America and frequent reference has been made in reports to the need for adequate tenancy legislation. While much research and educational work have been carried out to demonsarte to both landlord and tenant the need for better leases, very little progress has been made in providing a legislative framework within which improvement to tenancy may be accomplished. In our effort to bring respectability to tenancy in our two countries we can usefully look to the tenure experience of certain European countries, particularly Great Britain."

English Comparison

Land tenure in Great Britain, the writer goes on to say, is characterized by a high degree of tenant farming, recent statistics showing that 65 per cent of agricultural holdings in England and Wales are occupied by tenants and 35 per cent by owners. Since 1895, a series of Agricultural Holdings Acts have gradually lessened the powers of landlords as to provisions in tenancy agreements. The most recent of these acts, the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1948, consolidated previous legislation and established security of tenure for efficient tenant farmers. The tenant now has a complete security of tenure; he cannot be given notice to quit a farm if he is cultivating it in accordance with the rules of good husbandry.

Three most important features of the English tenancy system affected by the 1948 act are: Fixity of tenure, requiring 12 months' notice to quit by the landlord, to which the tenant has the right to object; variable schedule of compensation to tenant when having to quit; board of arbitration to settle disputes when either one or both parties fail to agree to the ruling laid down by the local administrating body (acting for the minister of agriculture).

The article concludes by asserting: "There seems to be no doubt that under present conditions tenancy in the United States and Canada is not conducive to conservation farming."

Farmers' Union of Alberta

9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

EXECUTIVE:

President — Arnold Platt, Lethbridge.
Vice-Pres. — Henry Young, Millet.
Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Wainwright
A. B. Wood, Dewberry.
C. J. Stimpfle, Egremont.
Secretary — Mrs. Pansy Molen,
F.W.U.A. President — Mrs. C. T. Armstrong,
2113 - 29th Avenue, S.W., Calgary.

F.W.U.A. EXECUTIVE:

President — Mrs. C. T. Armstrong,
2113 - 29th Avenue, S.W., Calgary.
1st Vice-President — Mrs. Olive Douglass, Vulcan.
2nd Vice-President — Mrs. D. Mathison, Dewberry

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE:

President — Walter Scheidt, Didsbury.
1st Vice-Pres. — Dean Lien, Warner.
2nd Vice-Pres. — Aubrey Marler, Bremner.
Executive Member—Harold Schielke, Carstairs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District	F.U.A.	F.W.U.A.	JUNIOR F.U.A.
1.	Uri Powell, Sexsmith	Mrs. M. Robertson, Clairmont	Eddie Brown, Beaverlodge
2.	H. P. Marquardt, High Prairie	Mrs. E. Fewang, High Prairie	Lucien Cote, Donnelly
3.	Clare Anderson, Freedom	Mrs. Hilda Beach, Westlock	
4.	Fritz Wuth, Rat Lake	Mrs. A. Beaudin, Cork	Hanna Anderson, Sugden
5.	Charles Seeley, Cherhill	Mrs. Laura Gibeau, Morinville	Alex McCalla, Bremner
6.	S. A. Sanford, Vegreville	Mrs. John Zaseybida, Vegreville	Paul Ewanciw, Myrnam
7.	Mrs. Mildred G. Redman, Hardisty	Mrs. Geo. Finlay, Lloydminster	Calvin Ross, Forestburg
8.	Ed Nelson, Brightview	Mrs. Cecil Keast, Viking	Nesly Rasmussen, R.R. 1, Clive
10.	F. Johnson, Red Deer	Mrs. F. A. Sissons, Clive	Laurena Pollock, Hubalta
11.	James A. Cameron, Youngstown	Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite, Red Deer	George Doupe, Oyen
12.	James Derrick, High River	Mrs. Russell Johnston, Helmsdale	Hartley McDonald, Vulcan
13.	Anders H. Anderson, Box 327, Med. Hat	Mrs. F. H. House, Arrowwood	
14.	G. D. Minion, Warner	Mrs. Sam Alberts, Brooks	
		Mrs. M. Roberts, Owendale	

WAR VETERANS' SECTION: Chairman—R. E. G. Armstrong, Parkland; Secretary—Robert Davidson, Delburne

President's Report

Since my last report I have attended 10 district conventions as well as a number of local meetings. It has been a wonderful experience for me to gain the viewpoint of members in different sections of the province. I have also enjoyed meeting so many of you and having your views on matters of interest to us all. Both Mrs. Platt and myself also appreciate the very warm welcome we have received. Your hospitality has been the best.

Naturally, certain subjects are of more interest in one district than in another but the fundamental difficulties of agriculture are common to all, and all conventions try to design policy to help meet the situation. However, I must say that at many conventions I was disappointed at the apparent lack of interest and lack of resolutions on the big issues that face farm people. Perhaps I was expecting too much because these problems are most difficult and many people have begun to feel that nothing can be done about them. I am not one of those. A few districts did meet such problems as parity prices and livestock marketing head on and after good discussion suggested a course of action. I am sure we all appreciate the leadership they are offering.

In all parts of the province there is a feeling that we must obtain more unity on the farm front. The multiplicity of organizations and co-operatives concerned with agriculture is confusing people in making it appear that there is a great deal more disunity than actually exists. Different districts have different ideas as to how a better situation can be brought about and these will all be placed before the board in the hope that an over-all plan can be evolved that will have the support of everyone, come convention time. This is a most difficult problem, it will take the best thought of everyone as well as good judgment and tolerance if a satisfactory solution is to be had.

There seems to be almost universal agreement that a better method must be found to collect our membership fees. Everyone is tired of the annual canvassing and thinks that something better can be evolved. The most popular solution is to have fees collected by the municipalities along with taxes. District No. 9, however came up with another idea. They proposed that all farmers be licensed and that the license

(Continued on Page 4)

Farm Forum Plans Growth

Farm Radio Forum can be a strong link in developing community spirit and, if properly organized, should serve to complement activities in a community rather than detract from them. This was the consensus of opinion arising from a special meeting of the provincial forum council, held in the FUA board room June 25.

The meeting, first of its kind ever held in Alberta, was attended by farm forum committee and council members as well as representatives from interested farm groups, agriculture department and university extension department. Taking a close look at past workings and future role of a farm forum, the gathering set as an immediate goal doubling of the number of forums for the coming season.

To aid in accomplishing this and to offer guidance in the council's future course, it was decided to set up an advisory committee. Among those to be asked to name a representative to the advisory committee are the FUA and FWUA, department of agriculture, co-operative union, university extension department and CBC farm directorate.

On behalf of National Farm Radio Forum, Mrs. Muriel Winter was presented with a leather brief case. The award was made in recognition of her outstanding work in organizing and promoting farm forums in the province.

Stewart Eyben, committee member from Vermilion, announced that forums in his area will be hosts to other northern Alberta forums at a picnic, slated for July 5 at Vermilion Park.

No Trouble

My husband is always saying such nice things," confided a lady to her closest friend; "just the other day he told me I was the least of his worries."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

fee include our farm union dues. This would inaugurate compulsory membership as well as providing a method of collecting dues. This proposal will be presented by the district at the provincial convention.

Preparations for the summer board meeting and the Interprovincial Council meeting are well advanced. Many important matters are on the agenda for consideration and action, including relationships with other organizations and a review of much of our present policy.

—A. W. Platt

Hardpan Problem Being Tackled

Good land is becoming steadily scarce and to reclaim some 10 million acres is no mean task. That is the aim of research men at Lacombe Experimental Farm in their plans for the recently acquired soil research sub-station at Vegreville.

Here are soils typical of a large area—not lacking in fertility but having it capped with a hard subsoil layer that inhibits root growth and prevents moisture penetration. In many cases the layer approaches the surface so closely as to make crop production impracticable.

The main belt of this "solonetz" type soil in Alberta extends from Bruderheim in the north to Suffield in the south, an area some 250 miles long by 35 miles wide. In addition, there are several smaller areas, upon all of which new management practices might tremendously benefit the farmers concerned.

It is to find ways and means of economically handling these soils that scientists at Lacombe are striving. Much of the work will fall to the Field Husbandry Division headed by Agronomist Henry Friesen. Associated with him in these studies are Don Dew, agricultural engineer and Don Walker, soils specialist. Deep tillage, soil amendments, fertilizer treatments and cropping methods will be the main branches of endeavor.

Of special interest to farmers faced with the solonetz soil problem will be a field day at the Vegreville sub-station on August 7.

CANADIANS OWE $139 EACH

A sharp increase in the amount of cash loans being secured by Canadians from finance companies and banks has caused the average per capita credit debt to climb to nearly $139. Latest figures issued by the Bank of Canada showed consumer credit outstanding to have reached a record level of $2,193,000,000 by January 1 this year.

The bulk of the $139 that every Canadian man, woman and child owes is split almost evenly between loans from banks and loan companies and credit obtained for instalment buying. The use of charge accounts makes up the balance.—Co-op Commentary.

Don't fret if the course of true love doesn't run smooth — neither does the House of Commons.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Across The Secretary's Desk



By Mrs. Pansy Molen

GATE SIGNS

We are disappointed in the response we have received from locals in the selling of the Junior gate signs. This is the juniors' only source of revenue this year. So, come on let's all give the juniors all the help we can.

These signs are made of 20-gauge steel with letters embossed and are covered with a high grade enamel baked on, and should last for many years. They are four inches wide, with letters two and one-half inches high.

They sell at $2 each, and the locals may retain 20 per cent (or 40c) commission for selling them. When you order, send the names, along with $1.60 for each sign, to central office. It takes three to four weeks for delivery.

PIPELINE COMPENSATION

We often receive inquiries concerning pipeline compensation. When a pipeline company wishes to run a gas line through a farmer's property, the land man for the company approaches the farmer and tries to obtain an easement.

If an agreement cannot be reached, the company applies to the Board of Public Utilities for the right-of-entry. When this is given, the company is required to leave a deposit with the board as a guarantee of compensation to the farmer. After the line has been put in, the board hears the case, both from the side of the company and the farmer, and decides on compensation.

The amount is usually the market value of the land plus 50 per cent. There is also compensation paid for damage to crops or fences. There is no yearly rental paid, as the land can be used after the line has been put in. If it is necessary to service the line later, compensation is paid.

This applies to an Alberta pipeline. In the case of an interprovincial pipeline, if terms cannot be agreed to, the case is taken to a district court judge for settlement.

Juniors Host Ontario Visitors

By Aubrey Marler

In our Junior FUA program, one of our activities is the exchange of junior farm delegates with Ontario. This year it was our turn to act as host to the Ontario Juniors, Miss Josephine Bird, of Cayuga, and Russell McAllister, of Smith Falls.

They arrived in Edmonton by TCA Northstar on the evening of June 5 and were welcomed by a group of juniors at the airport, then taken over to the university campus. Here, accommodations for the forthcoming week were arranged and then they were taken to a social gathering and introduced to the group of 100 young farm people registered for Farm Young People's Week.

During the next week, they attended lectures and were shown points of interest in and around Edmonton. During the week they also appeared on CFRN-TV, also the CJCA, CBX and CFRN farm shows.

Early the morning of June 14, in company with Robert Cooper, department of agriculture, Mrs. Minnie May Pollock, and Aubrey Marler, the two Ontario visitors left Edmonton by car for a tour of southern Alberta and the mountains. On the way south, stops were made at the Lacombe Experimental Station to see the new breed of hogs, at the Benalto 4-H Beef Club Achievement Day and on to Olds School of Agriculture for the night.

During the following week, stops were made at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scheidt, at the Star Coal Mine in Drumheller, at the homes of two former junior presidents in the ranching country south of Calgary and on over to Lethbridge. While at Lethbridge we were shown the St. Mary's River Dam and irrigation system and the Lethbridge Experimental Station. From Lethbridge we travelled west to the Crowsnest Pass, then north through The Kananaskis to Banff, Lake Louise, the ice fields, to Jasper, then Edmonton and home.

It may be of interest to those who didn't have the pleasure of meeting our Ontario visitors to know that Miss Bird was raised on her parents' farm near Hamilton and drives to work in Cayuga where she is Registrar of Deeds. She has been very active in young people's work and for the past two years has represented the Ontario girls on the Women's Institute Board in Ontario.

Russell McAllister was raised on his parents' farm near Ottawa and has since moved to his own 250-acre dairy farm at Smith Falls with his wife and two children. Russell has been active in the Ontario juniors for several years and is currently president of the organization.

The Junior FUA appreciates the help of organizations who made it possible for us to show our two Ontario visitors such a wonderful time and give them a tour of Alberta that they will never forget.

District Convention Reports . . .

DISTRICT TWO

Herb Marquardt of High Prairie was re-elected director of FUA District No. 2 at the district's annual convention, held June 16 at Peace River. Other officers chosen included Howard Hibbard of Nampa as alternate; Mrs. Ernest Fewang of High Prairie, FWUA director and Mrs. L. R. Cowell also of High Prairie, alternate.

Rain and muddy roads hampered the convention somewhat. Attendance records showed 74 delegates from 23 locals and 15 visitors.

A. W. Platt, FUA president, and Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, FWUA president, delivered inspiring talks commending officials for work in their districts and locals. They urged that broader study be given pressing problems of the day and that lesser ones be treated according to merit.

Among resolutions adopted, the convention asked for: Extension of rairoads from Grimshaw northward and from Hines Creek west to meet the PGE; provincial car insurance at cost; dropping of constitutional provision affiliating the farm union with the Alberta Federation of Agriculture; extension of producer marketing board legislation to include cattle and sheep producers; retention of Crow's Nest Pass Agreement; setting up of provincial board of arbitration to deal with disputes between companies and farmers regarding power line rights-of-way; financial assistance from the provincial government for the Canadian Mental Health Association; revision of the Homestead Act; provincial ownership of power generating and distributive systems; PFAA inspections be carried out on an individual farm basis.—Mrs. John Merriot, secretary-treasurer.

DISTRICT EIGHT

FUA District No. 8 annual convention was held at Forestburg on June 30, with 151 persons registered; comprising nine officials, 116 delegates and 26 visitors. Twenty-nine locals were represented. (District No. 8 extends from Stettler in the south to Viking and Holden areas in the north and Camrose to the west.)

Guest speakers for the day included provincial presidents, Mrs. C. T. Armstrong of Calgary for the FWUA and Arnold Platt, FUA president. Mrs. Armstrong stressed importance of helping juniors in the organization and urged locals to give them a part in the local program. She urged parents to see that their Grade 12 students are advised of the scholarships available to them on completion of high school, and touched briefly on schcolarships. She had been a member of the delegation who presented a brief to the Attorney General opposing Crime Comics and stated an Advisory Committee has been set up to investigate and she asked parents to co-operate by reporting undesirable literature found for sale. At the request of the FWUA, a regional library supervisor had been apppointed and a new Library Bill is to be put into operation, with more libraries also. She outlined the accomplishment of the farm organizations in getting legislation to provide for the setting up of producer marketing boards. She had accompanied the Alberta Poultry Producers' delegation when they went to the government with an egg marketing plan and government in turn had given them a proposed plan Following another meeting with the government, the results will be given to FUA Locals and members were urged to advise central office of their feelings on this subject when they receive this literature.

Mr. Platt congratulated officials on their election and urged all members to support them. He mentioned his disappointment at the drop in membership from last year but stated that this year's membership is nevertheless twice as much as it has been in any year between 1950-55. He mentioned the official opening of the new Farmers' Union office building by the Lieutenant-governor to which all members are invited, on July 18.

Commenting on resolutions passed last year, Mr. Platt said "The provincial resolutions were formally presented in the form of a brief to the provincial members at a session in our board room." He told of the FUA representation in other groups, such as Mrs. Armstrong being on the Federation of Agriculture Committee and Mrs. Armstrong and himself on the Interprovincial Farmers' Union Council as FUA representatives, and spoke of the briefs they had presented on federal matters. Mr. Platt asked that members take some interest in who we are sending to represent us in the governments. "I am not concerned in what political party you send but I do say you should send someone who is prepared to go to bat for agriculture when he gets there," Mr. Platt said. He also described the increase in freight rates, grain quotas which farmers are limited to, and various other farm problems, and asked for support for tthe farm co-operatives such as the Wheat Pool and the Co-op Implements.

W. G. Logan, co-ordinator of organization was present and spoke on setting up of FUA sub-districts within the district. He had a detailed map on a

(Continued on Page 7)

FARM SAFETY WEEK

Under provincial government proclamation, July 22-28 has been designated Farm Safety Week. The proclamation was issued to coincide with National Farm Safety Week in the U.S.

Duing this time, Alberta radio and newspapers will help train the spotlight on farm accident prevention. Of course, farm safety needs to be a year 'round proposition and should not be forgotten at the end of this period, stress safety officials.

FARM LEADER DIES

Jonathan Morris Wheatley, prominent leader of early farm organizations in Alberta, died in hospital at Bassano on July 1.

Mr. Wheatley played no small part in the formation and growth of the Alberta Wheat Pool and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts, in time rising to the top rung of each organization. He also took an active part in the farm union movement, having held continuous membership since pioneer days.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS REPORTS . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

blackboard which he explained, prior to delegates meeting in groups to elect sub-directors for the various sub-districts.

It was announced that prize winners for an essay contest open to young people in the district on "Better Co-operation between 4-H Clubs and Junior FUA" were: Delmar Albrecht of Donalda; Doug Lyster of Donalda and Marilyn Mathison of Heisler.

Resolutions pased at this convention requested: Investigation of storage facilities in terminal elevators; floor prices on eggs to be equalized all across Canada; that PFAA appraisers be selected from the area they are to inspect, and that they leave a carbon copy of their findings with the farmer; an investigation into the margin of profit charged on machinery repair parts; no further increase in taxation as applied to agriculture; and that offenders for the second time of sex crimes be not released at large. — J. E. Carter, Edberg, secretary-treasurer.

TRADE IN NOW

Your OLD SEPARATOR for a

De Laval



All Stainless Steel Bowl — Corers — Spouts
No Gears — No Oiling — All Electric

Also . . .



The all Electric Table Model

Check Now —
SAVE DOLLARS
by Clean Skimming.

SEPARATORS **DE LAVAL** MILKERS
227-7TH AVENUE EAST
CALGARY

Please send complete details on:

.....

Name

Address

U.S. Soil Bank Handling Scored By Farm Union

"Fumbling, contradictions, and uncertainty mark the first moves of the Eisenhower administration to put the 'soil bank' program into effect for 1956 crops," charges the June 8 Washington Newsletter, a regular publication of the U.S. National Farmers' Union.

Congress' intent in passing the legislation, the union contends, was to allow payment on 1956 crops which had suffered from drouth, flood or other natural hazards. However, such is not the case as the scheme is being applied now. The NFU charges "(Secretary of Agriculture) Benson's denial of full soil bank benefits in drouth areas will wipe out one of the main contributions that the legislation could make to farmers' welfare in 1956."

Through the "soil bank" program, the U.S. government hopes to reduce burdensome surpluses of farm commodities by paying farmers to take a portion of their cropland out of production. To participate, a farmer will have to completely retire production on a specified portion of his allotted crop acreage (as previously laid down for eligibility of parity price payments). This land he will have to keep free of noxious weeds, neither harvest nor graze livestock thereon, and comply with all acreage allotments on the farm.

For the current year (most crops were sown before announcement of the program), farmers will be paid to plow under growing crops. Payment is to be made on a prospective yield basis—wheat, $1.20 a bushel; corn, 90 cents a bushel; cotton, 15 cents a pound; rice, $2.25 a cwt.; peanuts, 3 cents a pound; tobacco, 8/19 cents a pound for the various types. Payments on drouth-stricken acreage will be discounted by the amount of crop lost, but the farmer will receive a minimum payment even if his whole crop has been lost.

Commenting further on the program, the Washington Newsletter says:

"The last—and only previous—time farmers were paid by the U.S. government for plowing under crops was 1933. This was the first year of the Roosevelt administration, when Henry Wallace was Secretary of Agriculture.

"The Wallace 'plow-under' program was put into effect hurriedly to pump money out to the farms and attempt to deal with the 'burdensome surpluses' of food and fiber which then, as now, don't seem to be available for feeding the hungry and clothing the naked.

"The Wallace "plow-under' episode provoked almost universal denunciation from the nation's newspapers and from opposing politicians.

"No U.S. politician of national caliber ever recommended such a program again until last January, when President Eisenhower proposed legislation which would pay farmers for crops to be 'physically incorporated into the soil'.

"Such is the flexibility of editorial writers' and poiticians' standards that hardly a peep was raised when Eisenhower reached back to Wallace's 23-year-old plow-under plan to deal with the farm crisis created under three years of his administration."

Busy Time at Farm Young People's Week

By Hannah Anderson

Rural young people from all parts of the province gathered at the University of Alberta for the 38th annual Farm Young People's Week, June 6-13.

Most of the participants arrived the day before opening and an informal get-together was held that evening so that all would become acquainted. The Junior FUA was pleased to be hosts to two Ontario visitors and one from Saskatcchewan.

Farm Young People's Week is a period of planned education and recreation and let me tell you it is a busy week and one well worthwhile. Courses related to agriculture were taught by the university teachers and men and women from the sponsoring organizations. Topics this year included co-operation, horticulture, first aid, pastuerization of milk, grain judging, weed indentification, livestock judging, household economics, the farm flock, public speaking and debating. The Junior FUA also sponsored a tractor roadeo, highlighting farm safety.

Throughout the week, there were numerous competitions, open to all students. Awards for these competitions were presented at a mid-week banquet and consisted of trophies, cash prizes and scholarships.

The week was not all spent in work, however. We had time for recreation each afternoon. Most evenings were closed, with some form of entertainment going on and we were glad to return to our residence for the night.

A banquet and dance officially ended the week but, unofficially, it will live on for years in our memories. Many friendships were made, some never to be broken. I thank all who made Farm Young People's Week possible.

"Know Your Directors"

CLARE ANDERSON



Clare Anderson, District No. 3

Self help and co-operative action are a hard combination to beat, finds Clare Anderson of Freedom, director for FUA District No. 3. His capacity for getting things done has placed him in responsible positions in a number of community organizations, besides his duties in the farm union.

Determined to improve livestock marketing in his district, Clare Anderson more recently spearheaded a move to form a local feeders' association. The venture has progressed and he and his neighbors are reaping the benefits of this program of self help. Aside from direct action such as this, he has taken a keen interest in Barrhead and District Chamber of Commerce. As chairman of the agricultural committee of the latter, he has done an outstanding job of making the farmer's position clear to non-farmers. Mr. Anderson is also an active member of Freedom Community Club and Square Dance Club and a director of Shoal Lake Shipping Association.

Raised on a homestead at Freedom (in the Barrhead district), Clare has stayed in the district to do his farming. Married to the former Hazel Brown of Westlock, he is the father of three children, two boys of 10 and five and a girl of nine.

Typifying co-operative action, Clare and his brother Hubert farm on a partnership basis. Each owns a half-section and they rent three more quarters. Hogs, beef cattle, milk cows and registered seed growing round out their farming operations.

At the recent district convention, Mr. Anderson was re-elected for a third term as director.

HILDA BEACH



Mrs. Hilda Beach, District No. 3

Born in Dundee, Scotland, and raised at Marcherwell, Lanarkshire, Mrs. Hilda Beach has made her home in Alberta for 29 years. A good part of that time she has been active in the farm movement. In fact, she attended her first meeting at the home of Mrs. Wm. Smart at Suuniebend in 1931.

Although her family of three sons and a daughter is married and living away from home, Mrs. Beach continues to take great interest in young people's work. Demonstrative of that interest, she has put in a year as leader of the local calf club and more recently has lent her aid at Farm Young People's Week at the University of Alberta.

After serving as alternate FWUA director for a year and secretary for three years, she moved to the position of director two years ago. She has served 12 years as secretary of a rural telephone company, three terms as president of Westlock Ladies' Curling Club, has been member of the local library board for two years, worked on the fair board for six years and with the hospital auxiliary for two years.

Mrs. Beach and her husband, George, put in full time on their mixed farm of three quarter sections, one mile north of Westlock.

An active member of her church choir, Mrs. Beach enjoys as well modern,, old-time and square dancing. True to Highland upbringing, she can be persuaded occasionaly to do fancy Scottish dance capers to entertain a crowd.

The Organized Farmer

Editor A. W. PLATT

Assistant Editor C. C. SCHILLE

Members 50c a year

Non-members $1.00 a year

Authorized Second Class Mail,
Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Published monthly by
FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Printed by Co-op Press, Edmonton.

Vol. XV July, 1956 No. 7

EDITORIALS

MUNICIPAL FINANCE

The proposed new deal in municipal finance is meeting with a great deal of interest throughout the province. Well it should, for the proposals are far reaching and will affect the well-being of everyone.

Nearly every district convention has expressed an opinion on one or other of the proposed new taxes and has agreed that land taxes must be reduced.

However, there has been little discussion as to how education is to be financed. At present the province pays about 50 per cent of the cost and the municipality the balance. If land taxes are to be reduced, it would seem logical that the province would have to pay a larger share of the school tax. It has even been suggested that the province pay all the cost. He who pays the piper, calls the tune. If the provincial government agrees to pay all costs they will have the effective control over education in the province.

It would seem much better to have a considerable measure of control at the local level. This might be worked out by provincial grants to the value of about half the total cost plus a definite percentage of revenue from existing or new taxes, with the municipality making up any small difference that might remain.

In any case, the question of financing and controlling education requires much more thought and attention than it has so far received from farm people.—A.W.P.

□ □ □

FREIGHT RATES

Since the end of the Second World War, railway freight rates have continuously spiralled upward and apparently the end is not yet in sight. Due to geographical and other factors, Canada's western economy has been forced to absorb the main brunt of these periodic increases, more particularly agriculture.

Logically, railway revenues in this period had to keep rising in order to keep pace with mounting operating costs and likely will have to continue doing so, it can be argued. On the surface, we can find no direct quarrel with this. The sad part of the whole business is that the burden of transportation costs is totally inequitable on application and each increase only serves to widen the gap.

Over the past five years, the combination of bumper crops and fairly buoyant markets and prices has enabled the western farm economy to more or less withstand the strain. We suggest that the final point of absorption has now been reached and a few more straws may well break the camel's back.

These straws right now are blowing in the wind. When the Board of Transport Commissioners recently awarded the railways an interim seven per cent increase, intimations arose that the CPR, official spokesman for Canada's major railways, has run head-on into a looming the full 15 percent asked for in the application may be granted this fall. More recently, labor problem. When settlement is made one way or another, it is bound to involve additional operating costs. It is not illogical to assume then that another increase in rates will be applied for, further to the eight per cent now pending the board's decision.

The time has come when ability to pay rather than need of revenue should be one of the cardinal principles guiding the Board of Commissioners in its investigations and decisions.

It is up to farm organizations to demonstrate to those in authority that pyramiding increases will drive the western farm economy into the ground. Surely the wellbeing of our segment is not so expendable that it should be offered on the sacrificial altar of profit expediency. Freight deficiency payments and subsidies to the railways should be worth earnest consideration at this time.—C.C.S.

GRAIN QUOTAS

Hon. C. D. Howe announced in the Commons sometime ago that it would not be possible to equalize grain delivery quotas at all points by the end of the crop year. Mr. Howe explained there was an active demand for certain grades of grain and not for others and that in order to get the grain that was needed for immediate sale it had to be taken from where it was available.

The whole purpose of delivery quotas is to give every producer an equal opportunity to deliver his grain. We should only deviate from the principle of equal quotas when it can be clearly shown that much greater good to a greater number would result from so doing. I am satisfied that there is a demand for certain grades and that it is in the general interest to move these forward for sale even at the expense of ending the crop year with unequal quotas.

However, when we examine the whole situation which now exists in Alberta we find that there are pronounced geographical differences in quotas which are in no way related to grades of grain. It can be plainly shown that the great majority of low points are on C.P.R. lines and particularly on some of their branch lines. This situation has existed throughout the crop year and apparently neither the farm unions, the government of Canada, the transport controller or the wheat board can persuade the C.P.R. to get on with this job very shortly so that when the end of the crop year arrives the only discrepancies in quotas will be due to the necessity of getting certain grades of grain out and not to the branch line on which the grain is located.

We have developed a fine grain marketing system in western Canada that has worked well even under very difficult conditions. It depends for its success on the co-operation of farmers, elevator companies, railways, the wheat board and the government. Farm people of western Canada who have spent a life of hard work to build this system up, are not going to stand idly by while one railway company sabotages the program by not fulfilling its responsibilities.

—A.W.P.

JUNIOR OBSERVANCE

A full day's activities are slated for August 11, when F.U.A. juniors in districts No. 9 and 10 hold their annual friendship day at Sylvan Lake. All juniors from anywhere in the province are welcome to attend.

Beginning with registration at 10 a.m., the program includes swimming, ball game, outdoor lunch, sing-song and potluck supper. Duncan Campbell, university extension department, will be the guest speaker, while former junior president, Ron Pollock, will take a hand in conducting a buzz session.

Films will be shown by Dean Chessar and an evening dance will wind up the proceedings.

Agriculture Stays Top

Despite phenomenal industrial development in Alberta over the past few years, agriculture still led the field in gross value of production in 1955. If present trends continue, however, it may not be too long until minerals take over the lead.

MEMBERSHIP RECORD JUNE 1956

District	June Men	To date Men	June Women	To date Women	June Assoc.	To date Assoc.	June Jrs.	To date Jrs.	To date Total
DISTRICT 1	22	1478	23	422	—	—	10	249	2149
DISTRICT 2	50	1591	19	476	—	1	15	335	2403
DISTRICT 3	22	1646	3	480	—	2	11	304	2432
DISTRICT 4	25	2149	6	630	—	1	1	503	3283
DISTRICT 5	22	1564	13	568	—	4	9	403	2539
DISTRICT 6	25	2765	9	1169	1	10	8	689	4633
DISTRICT 7	12	2601	5	845	—	4	—	471	3921
DISTRICT 8	19	2042	3	563	—	—	—	292	2897
DISTRICT 9	9	2292	4	717	—	7	1	355	3371
DISTRICT 10	30	2691	12	670	—	16	14	286	3663
DISTRICT 11	19	1044	20	419	2	12	—	154	1631
DISTRICT 12	8	2112	2	835	—	10	1	318	3275
DISTRICT 13	10	714	- 6	255	—	5	6	98	1072
DISTRICT 14	10	1699	2	509	—	1	2	243	2452
TOTAL	283	26388	115	8560	3	73	78	4700	39721

FWUA Section



President's Report

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

ON CONVENTIONS

At the time of writing this report, 10 district conventions have already been held. We have had a variety of weather, mostly rain, but even with muddy roads etc. the conventions have been well attended. It is hoped that as we finish the last four conventions, better weather will prevail.

The discussion of resolutions is always an important part of any convention and there seems to be general interest in a better way of collecting and maintaining membership in the F.U.A. The proposed new deal in municipal finance promises many resolutions for discussion. It is to be hoped that some of these will be given an airing at the local level, so as to bring information and facts into the annual convention and in that way the delegates will be better able to make their decisions, and handle the important matters so pertinent to our agricultural welfare.

Marketing problems are always with us, and farmers are anxious to do something to rectify some of these ills. These are the matters which should occupy our time in local meetings also, and some clear thinking done, to tackle this problem not just for the seasonal run, but for long-range stability.

I am hoping that as the district conventions are concluded, the local delegates will make an earnest effort to go back and inform their neighbors of the real necessity of farmers to make an effort to better their own conditions. The way I see it, no other group is going to do it for us, so we had better get busy, time goes on, and with it steelworkers strike for higher pay, freight rates increase, and many other things happen to make our road rougher. Let us concentrate our efforts on resolutions and problems that really affect all of us, and by united effort to do a good job in helping ourselves to share in the national prosperity.

I do not wish to leave the impression that we are in a hopeless position, for we have worked hard to bring our problems to the attention of those who are in a position to help us, and will continue to do so. In some matters real progress is showing. The fact still remains that it is not enough to dream up resolutions of varied types, but rather that we stick to business and work on the things that are basic to agriculture and the welfare of the farmer, his wife and family. That should be enough to keep us all busy at the local, district and provincial levels.

F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights

More program planning will go into the 1957 conference of FWUA District No. 7. At the district's seventh annual conference, held June 14 at the Vermilion School of Agriculture, it was decided to have one representative from each local meet in advance of next year's conference date to plan the program.

Chairman Mrs. George Finlay of Lloydminster, outlined to the gathering her work in promoting higher education among high school graduates of the area, particularly vocational training at the Vermilion school.

The conference group of 20 ladies was taken on a tour of the grounds by the horticulturist and

heard an address by the director of the area's Mental Health Association.

Lunch was served by ladies of Greenlawn Local.

■ ■ ■

The members of the Lornedale FWUA No. 808 (Viking), at their last meeting, heard an infomative and interesting talk on municipal problems and taxation, given by their M.L.A., Mr. Earl Hardy.

■ ■ ■

Again we are questioned as to why reports of meetings are not in the paper. Again we say, as in our April, 1956, issue, only matters of interest to the organization as a whole are entered due to the fact that space is very limited.

■ ■ ■

Three Hills FWUA No. 1018 report hearing a talk, at their June meeting, given by Mr. Pete Meston, reeve of Knee Hill municipality, on new municipal taxation which is now under discussion. A report on Mrs. Berry's visit to Olds was given and found very interesting. A very successful Farmers' Day picnic is reported as being held at Pine Lake.

Beach Project Undertaken

By Mrs. Jack Perkins

Farm union people of Wainwright and district have spearheaded a project of community betterment, undertaking to beautify and expand Jubilee Beach. The need of a larger, safer beach and picnic grounds, along with bath house and toilets, had been long a crying need at the popular public picnic spot on Clear Lake.

At a meeting with provincial, municipal and town authorities in January, it was decided that a provincial park such as the one at Vermilion was, at least for the present, an impossibility. Heath and Sydenham-Gerald FWUA locals decided to investigate improving the public beach. Other interested groups in the area, such as women's institutes and neighboring FWUA locals were contacted.

A delegation from these groups was graciously received by the municipal council, who agreed to divert the present road away from the beach. With the kind co-operation of Mr. Mockford, they were able to purchase 4-6 acres of land to enlarge the picnic sight.

Part of the municipal jubilee grant was used to purchase tent bottoms for a bathhouse for a nominal fee from Martin Gosselin, who also donated 10 wash stands to be used as picnic tables. Mr. and Mrs. Kinghorn donated toilets to the project.

Work Party

On Farmers' Day, June 8, improvement to the beach near the culvert was begun. Districts represented at that picnic-work bee were Hope Valley, Heath, Sydenham-Gerald and Ascot. Some underbrush was cleared, tin cans and rubbish taken away and an army wash stand (one of 10 that will serve as tables) was reconstructed.

The people who had given of their time and effort now felt that more organization was necessary before the project could proceed in a more orderly manner and to the satisfaction of all. To this end, a meeting was held on June 12 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Perkins.

At this gathering, it was decided to hold a general meeting at Grangedale Hall on June 26. Such things as buildings, beach and grounds, boating and pier, motor traffic and parking, sports facilities and sanitation were discussed and permanent committees elected.

Aside from this, Mr. Gilmet of the Red Cross Swimming and Water Safety Branch addressed the FWUA district conference at Edgerton, where much helpful information was secured on making the beach a safer place.

Another organization which must be mentioned is the Kinsmen who have set up a committee to represent them and have offered assistance by way of labor.

Anyone who has ever been concerned with a project such as this knows the extent of organizational work that must be done before any actual work is really started. The committee who has done this work must be commended for its accomplishments, as should those who have co-operated all down the line.

Rash Promise!

After five days adrift on the ocean in a tiny life raft, without food or water, the four-man crew of a downed plane had given up all hope of reaching land.

As a final gesture before succumbing to their fate, one of the men struggled to his knees and began to pray: "Dear Lord — I've led a sinful life and I am truly repentant. If Thou would save me and take me back to land, I would quit drinking, gambling and running around with . . . "

At this point, one of his companions grasped his arm and excitedly croaked: "Hold on a minute, George; don't commit yourself. I think I see land!"

FROM A POINT OF LAW:

By A. M. Brownlee

Drainage of Farm Lands

The traditionally good relations between neighbouring farmers can be upset by many problems such as the construction and maintenance of line fences and the running at large of domestic animals, to name only two common ones. An even more serious problem which has been observed frequently in recent years has to do with the flooding of farm lands as a result of interference with natural watercourses by persons who want to relieve their own lands of excess water.

Must Accept

It is a common misconception of the law that a land owner may take any step to drain water from his land, or alternatively to prevent water from coming onto his land in the first place. Such is not the case. On the contrary, the proprietor of land must accept the flow of water onto his land through natural watercourses, and, of course, he is entitled to have the same water continue onto lower lands of his neighbors without interference. The unfortunate land owner is the one whose land is in a low spot with no natural drainage outlet; for, unless he can arrange a system of artificial drainage under The Private Ditches Act or The Drainage Districts Act he may receive water from higher adjoining lands and this water may remain on his land until it evaporates or soaks into the ground. In desperation he may consider erecting a dam to prevent the flow of water onto his lands, but if by so doing he causes water to back up onto his neighbour's land, thus doing damage to his neighbour, he will be liable to an action for damages at the suit of his neighbour.

Clearly Stated

The law on the subject was very clearly stated by the Court of Appeal of this province in 1917 in the case of Makowecki -v- Yachimyc. This judment has not been disputed or varied up to the present time. Makowecki was the owner of a quarter section of land through which there naturally flowed a stream of water. Yachimyc owned the quarter section adjoining, and the same stream flowed onto his land, causing him considerable inconvenience. Eventually, Yachimyc put up an earthen dam in the body of the stream at the boundary line between the two parcels, thereby penning and forcing the water back so that it overflowed and flooded Makowecki's land. The court gave judgment for damages against Yachimyc and ordered him to remove the obstruction or alternatively to place a culvert in it so as to allow the water to flow in the normal manner through the watercourse.

It is particularly to be noted that this rule of law does not only apply to water running through a definite channel or creek, but can apply to water running through a slight depression. In the Makowecki case the Court applied the rule to —

> "watercourse in the sense of surface water coming from rains and melting snow, it may be throughout a long distance and in large bodies, and not being merely diffused generally over the surface but flowing in a definite channel provided by natural gulleys or ravines or depressions but in which when the water is not flowing there is no distinct bed nor at any time any cutting of the soil so as thus to mark the banks or edges of the channel, though doubtless in such cases a careful examination of the soil would show the height to which the water rose on the last occasion and probably the line of its usual height; in respect of which there would be no riparian rights but on the part of any proprietor through whose land the channel passed to appropriate if he wished the whole of the water coming to him and on the other to require the next lower proprietor to receive it in its usual channel."

Later in 1917, the same court added an interesting suggestion in the case of Farnell -v- Parks. In that case, Farnell was the owner of the higher land and Parks was the owner of the lower lands. A natural watercourse flowed from the higher parcel to the lower where it was obstructed by a beaver dam, thus causing the water to back up. The court ruled that Farnell was entitled to enter onto Parks' land to remove the dam. There is an exception, which is stated by the courts as follows:

> "Such an obstruction may rightfully be removed at any time by the owner of the higher land, even though the obstruction be on his neighbour's land, so as to restore the land to its original conformation, unless, perhaps, where a party relying on the continuance of the obstruction, has dealt with his land in such a way that it would be injured by the removal of the obstruction, and the party entitled to remove it has stood by, knowing of, but without objecting to, the other party's actions."

No Ditching

It is probably unnecessary to point out that

where no natural watercourse exists, a land owner will have no right to create artificial drainage by digging a ditch which will cause water to be deposited on other lands. Obviously, he will be responsible at law for the damages resulting from such action. Even the practice of digging ditches up to road allowances so as to deposit water in the road ditches is an unlawful act. In a recent lawsuit it came to the attention of the court that one landowner drained a 60-acre slough into a road allowance. The water followed the road ditch for a certain distance and then spilled out onto private lands. The court stated that the municipality which was being sued by the damaged party could have joined the first mentioned farmer as a party to the action for having unlawfully discharged water into the road ditches. If, therefore, you encounter an apparently unsurmountable flooding problem where you have no natural outlet it would be advisable to consult the provisions of the various provincial acts dealing with drainage for a possible solution to the problem.

Donations of butter to U.S. welfare agencies for foreign donation, which had been discontinued because of the low level of Commodity Credit Corporation stocks, have been resumed. During May, 30,000 pounds of CCC-owned butter were committed for this outlet.

According to the monthly sales list of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for June 1956, the competitive bid basis has been adopted for all export sales of dry skimmed milk, butter and cheddar cheese.—Dairy Products Review

Heap Big Love!

A young Indian brave in Nevada earnestly fanned a blanket over a huge bonfire, sending a smoke signal of devotion to his secret love many miles away.

Just then, the first atomic blast was set off on the distant desert. Watching the awesome mushroom of smoke rolling skyward, the brave grunted dejectedly: "No chance I got 'gainst feller with love like that."

Classified

FOR SALE

Two adjoining half-sections mixed farmland, mostly cultivated, two full sets buildings. 16 miles S.E. Leduc, near school bus route, gravel roads, adjacent power line. Sell as unit or separately. Fur further details, enquire J. I. Jones, R.R. No. 1, Millet, Alta.

For a Well Laid . . .

SWATH

WHICH WILL

SAVE TIME

SAVE GRAIN

SAVE QUALITY

USE A

CO-OP SWATHER

9 Ft. 12 Ft. 15 Ft.

HYDRAULIC OR LEVER LIFT

Available at all C.C.I.L. Depots or from

Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited

CALGARY — EDMONTON

Depots at:

BERWYN	ST. PAUL	STETTLER
GRANDE PRAIRIE	WAINWRIGHT	INNISFAIL
DAWSON CREEK	SEDGEWICK	HANNA
WESTLOCK	WETASKIWIN	LETHBRIDGE

Monthly Letter from

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

Dear Friends:

We're going to give you some figures again this month and hope they're not too boring. They should interest you inasmuch that they show you what the A.L.C. handled in the line of livestock for its fiscal year ending May 31, 1956.

Our president, Mr. C. P. Hayes, reported to the Annual Meeting that handlings were as follows:

Cattle and calves	135,596
Hogs	467,437
Sheep	16,792

Gross value of the livestock handled was better than thirty-one million dollars—$31,198,398.73 to be exact.

Now, that's quite a lot of livestock and if you've got nothing better to do just divide some of the figures by 52 and that will give you the average weekly turnover for the year.

The Annual Meeting was held in Edmonton on July 5th and 6th.

A.L.C. membership consists of two types. One is group membership as exemplified by 40 shipping associations throughout the province, with one in B.C. and one in Saskatchewan. The other is membership at large and consists of individuals who consign directly to the A.L.C. to the Calgary or Edmonton agencies on the public markets there.

There were 50 delegates at the meeting to represent the Associations and 10 to represent members at large; all were elected out of the districts from where the livestock originated. Members at large were better represented out of the Southern part of the Province than out of the Central and Northern parts. The South of the Province seems more interested in organized livestock marketing but the North is starting to show signs of life.

An indication of wide representation is shown by the consist of the A.L.C. Board of Directors, which is as follows:

President — C. P. Hayes, Stromé, Alberta
Vice-president — Carl J. Anderson, Brooks, Alberta.
Executive director — R. H. Carlyle, Blackfalds, Alberta
Directors — Hugh W. Allen, Huallen, Alberta
C. D. Lane, Neutral Hills, Alberta
J. R. Tomlinson, Foisy, Alberta
Archie L. Hogg, High River, Alberta.

Similarly, the delegates represented all phases of livestock production, it was a highly interested meeting, we'll try to give you more detail next month.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE WINKELAAR, General Manager

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

(Advertisement)

MEN and MACHINES

By W. J. (Bill) Harper

When the 1945 membership drive was completed, CCIL had 46,000 members and over $800,000 in subscribed capital. The next job was to get machines. There were some who thought that a factory should be bought or built and that the new organization should go into the production of a full line of machinery as quickly as possible.

While the idea had a good deal of popular appeal, anyone who gave the matter serious thought realized that it was completely impractical. In the first place, money required would have been many times the $800,000 which was available and in the second place, it takes from two to three years to field test any new machine sufficiently that it can be safely put into production. No one was prepared to wait that long. Farmers were in desparate need of machines. A supply of reliable machines had to be found as quickly as possible.

After lengthy negotiations, a contract was signed with the Cockshutt Plow Company, whereby CCIL was to receive a limited supply of certain machines. These machines were identical to those sold by the manufacturing company, except that they were painted the co-op color and bore the co-op stencil.

In the meantime, another source of machinery became available. A small factory, located on the outskirts of Winnipeg, came up for sale. It had been manufacturing sleighs, steel-wheeled wagons, wagon boxes, harrow sections and farm hardware for many years. The board of CCIL realized that such a plant could prove most valuable to the new co-op, both as a source of supplies and an experimental plant for the production of new types of machines.

It was therefore decided to purchase this factory. The purchase price amounted to a large slice of the company's cash, so the three prairie governments were appproached for a loan. This loan was granted, the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba each advancing one-third the purchase price of the factory. The loans were amortized over 20 years and are therefore over half repaid at present.

Two important steps in setting up a machinery co-operative were thus completed. Membership and capital had been obtained — in limited amounts, to be sure — and sources of supply of machines had been arranged. The next step was to set up a distributive system, which is now functioning in the three prairie provinces and the Peace River area of British Columbia.

Two Rivals May Merge

After five years of sharp and sometimes bitter rivalry between the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation and the Manitoba Farmers' Union, indications are that a merger may be brought about within the next year or two. At the annual meeting of the federation, held at Brandon June 25-27, delegates voted for amalgamation with the farm union. Similar merger conditions were defeated at last year's convention but this time were imposed by a bloc of delegates favorably disposed toward the Manitoba Farmers' Union.

Strongest points included in the merger conditions were that commercial co-operatives (structural units of the MFAC) have no representation on the board of whatever new organization may be formed, and that the MFAC delete the word "Co-operation" from its corporate name and transform the co-operatives themselves into a provincial division of the Co-operative Union of Canada.

Reputable reports say that an air of tension hung over the meeting place as the convention opened. The federation president and vice-president had shortly before been defeated as directors at their own district conventions and therefore were ineligible to stand for provincial office.

However, some observers at the convention felt that the rival factions were successful in subordinating their individual feelings in favor of laying the groundwork for formation of one farm organization in the province. This premise is based on the fact that the new president and vice-president who had been active in both organizations previously, were named to a committee set up to draft merger details with the farm union.

Convention Reports — District 13

Anders H. Anderson of Clearwater Lake was re-elected FUA director of District No. 13, at the district's annual convention, held at Brooks on June 20. Mrs. Natalie Roberts of Brooks was returned by acclamation as FWUA director. John Koza of Tilley and Mrs. Thelma Duby, Rainier, were unanimous choices as alternate directors, respectively.

Guest speaker, Arnold W. Platt, gave a report on the state of the union, saying that reduced membership was serious but nothing to be panicky about. The yearly average used to be 21,000 and this year is 40,000—down from the all-time high of 62,000 last year.. The prestige of the FUA is improving, he said, due to sound policy, new permanent office

(Continued on Page 18)

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

R.R. 2., Wetaskiwin, Alta.

Sir:

It dawns on me that I have heard of radio program "What's your beef?" My "beef" concerns Co-op advertising. I am a member and patronize our co-op institutions because I accept their principles. Being only a delegate in one of these enterprises, I believe I can speak where higher officials might think it prudent not to.

I'm sure if C.C.I.L. wanted an elevator for a background to their ad, the elevator would indicate itself as belonging to a co-op.

Because most co-ops are the result of nurturing to some extent by other co-ops it does not seem reasonable that unbrotherly actions take place between them. In all actions, especially advertising and publicity, a considerate nature as far as fellow co-ops are concerned should be practised.

Let's not let it happen again.

Don C. McLaughlin,
R.R. No. 2,
Wetaskiwin, Alta.

Sir:

Mr. Sherratt, of Mayerthorpe, finds it mysterious that I should be "so distressed because Mr. Young says a few words in favour of the dairy industry". I thought I made myself clear, but evidently that was not the case.

Mr. Sherratt agrees with me that the system through which uneconomic businesses are protected by tariff walls, is pernicious. Very well then: when did two wrongs ever make one right? If a system is evil when employed by others, does it become good when employed by us?

I criticized Mr. Young's policy because I believed it to be morally wrong, economically unsound and inimical to the furtherance of our cause.

I did not say that we should not ask for legislation to protect us from that which has brought us to the verge of economic ruin. I said that we must not put a stamp of approval on that system by asking that it be applied for our own interests.

The old cutthroat law of the jungle — "Do unto the other fellow as he would do unto you, and do it first" — which largely dominates the world today, has brought the human race right where it is today: trembling on the very brink of destruction.

Surely, if anyone knows the rules of conduct by which mankind can attain its goal of security and happiness it is the Creator of man. His command to us is "Do unto the other fellow what you would like him to do unto you". If I am "living in a dream world", if I am "plain stupid" for advocating a policy in conformity with that law, then I am contented to live where I am, and remain, "plain stupid".

Maurice E. Brown,
Box 108, Alix, Alberta.

DISTRICT 13 CONVENTION . . .

(Continued from Page 17)

and farmers' viewpoints being given in the FUA paper, The Organized Farmer. Resolutions submitted to the provincial government had received a better hearing than those submitted to the federal government.

We should send members to parliament who have the interest of farmers at heart, he advocated. He told of individual service given to farmers and how the union has helped to prevent tariff increases and in some cases, freight rates increases. The FUA has done all in its power to retain the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement. We should study the Hinman proposals on municipal financing, livestock marketing, farm credit and our stand and co-ordination with other farm organizations, he felt.

FWUA president, Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, stressed the importance of training junior members to enable them to assume future responsibilities. She felt that more screening of resolutions was needed—we should stick to main issues concerning agriculture and do away with trivial and misleading resolutions which often fill program booklets at conventions.

Pointing to a direct accomplishment of the FWUA, she stated that farm women as well as men are now eligible for loans.

After dealing with a number of resolutions, the convention swung into a thorough study of union organization within the district, and a number of recommendations were made to the district board.

GET COMPLETE



CROP DAMAGE INSURANCE TODAY

Nothing can compensate for the loss of a valuable crop by Hail — BUT a U.G.G. Hail Insurance Policy—WILL PROTECT YOUR FINANCIAL INTEREST in this critical period for Agriculture...

INSURANCE is the only thing you can do about HAIL.

- U.G.G. HAIL POLICIES afford you the protection of one of the world's largest and strongest Companies writing Hail Insurance.
- U.G.G. HAIL POLICIES continue to protect until October 1st, and cover hail damage to crops while growing or in windrow, sheaf or stook.
- You are insured from noon of the day following the date stamped by your local Post Office on the envelope containing your application for your U.G.G. Hail Policy. See your nearest U.G.G. Agent.
- U.G.G. HAIL POLICIES are popular because they can be obtained at any U.G.G. Elevator and from Agents in most districts where there is no U.G.G. Elevator.
- DEDUCTIBLE POLICIES are available at lower cost.

Enquire About U.G.G. Hail Policies From Your Local U.G.G. Agent or Special Insurance Representative

1906 50th Anniversary Year 1956

United Grain Growers Ltd.

VOTE NOW!



Choose Wisely and Well!

Elections for Wheat Pool delegates are in progress in many sub-districts.

Ballots have been mailed to all members concerned.

The Wheat Pool is governed by its members through elected officials.

To be effective it must be controlled by the most capable men available.

If you have not already done so, mark your ballot today and drop it in the mail.

Your are choosing a new parliament for your **Alberta Wheat Pool.**



"It's Alberta Pool Elevators for Alberta Farmers"